
**State Government Operations &
Accountability Committee**

HB 1749

Brief Description: Strengthening review and correction of county election procedures.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Nixon, Hunt, Shabro, McDermott, Haigh, Moeller, Campbell, Simpson, Sells, Schual-Berke and Linville; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Calls for a review of election-related policies, procedures and practices to be conducted at least once every three years, or as often as possible dependent upon staffing or budget levels.
- Requires the county auditor or the county canvassing board to take corrective action for any problems uncovered during the review and the Secretary of State (Secretary) verify that the corrective action was taken.

Hearing Date: 2/18/05

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

Reviews of election-related policies, procedures, and practices in a county must be conducted if the unofficial returns of a primary or general election indicate that a mandatory recount is likely for a state legislative position or a federal office or in a statewide election. Reviews are also to be conducted periodically in a county after a primary or election at the direction of the Secretary or at the county auditor's request.

These post-primary or post-election reviews are conducted by the election review staff of the Office of the Secretary of State in conformance with rules adopted by the Secretary and the Election Administration and Certification Board. A review may not include an evaluation, finding, or recommendation regarding the validity of any canvass of returns or of the outcome of a primary or election. The staff must provide a report of its findings and recommendations to the county's auditor and canvassing board.

Summary of Bill:

Reviews of election-related policies, procedures and practices must be conducted at least once every three years, or as often as possible dependent upon staffing or budget levels. The county auditor or the county canvassing board must respond to the review report in writing listing steps to be taken to correct any problems. Before the next primary or general election, the Secretary must visit the county and verify that the corrective action was taken.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.